

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of assaying nucleic acids by molecular hybridization, ~~characterized by the fact that it includes the following step which comprises:~~
 - taking samples of biological material by a sampling device ~~(1; 13)~~ comprising abrasive sampling means ~~(2; 15, 16)~~ capable of retaining biological material in the form of cells;
 - isolating nucleic acids from the cells; and
 - assaying the nucleic acids by molecular hybridization.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the sampling of biological material is done in the surrounding air.
3. (Currently amended) ~~The method~~ The method according to ~~any of claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the sampling is done outside of a laboratory where the assaying will be done, and ~~in that the method includes a step of transport of~~ further comprising transporting the abrasive sampling means ~~(2; 15, 16)~~ loaded with their respective samples of biological material to said laboratory.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that it furthermore includes a step of~~ claim 1, further comprising extraction of the nucleic acids, comprising the steps of:
 - ~~an immersion step into an extraction buffer of~~ immersing the abrasive sampling means ~~(2; 15, 16)~~ loaded with their respective samples of biological material into an extraction buffer,
 - ~~a step of agitation in~~ agitating the extraction buffer,
 - ~~a separation step~~ separating the nucleic acids, and
 - ~~a recovery step for recovering~~ clarified solution containing the nucleic acids.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to Claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the separation step consists ~~in~~ of a centrifugation, and the supernatant constitutes the clarified solution.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the assaying by molecular hybridization is done by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

7. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized by the fact that the assaying of nucleic acids~~ Claim 1, further comprising
determining the presence of a pathogenic agent in the biological material by the molecular
~~hybridization is done in order to determine the presence of a pathogenic agent in the biological~~
~~material.~~
8. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized by the fact that~~ Claim 1, wherein the biological material consists of material of plant
origin.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ A kit for implementing the method according to ~~any of claims 1 to~~
~~8, characterized by the fact that it~~ Claim 1 which comprises a sampling device ~~(1; 12)~~ comprising
abrasive sampling means ~~(2; 14, 15)~~ able to retain biological material in the form of cells.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to Claim 9, ~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein
the sampling means ~~(2; 16, 17)~~ comprise a solid material ~~having comprising~~ an abrasive outer
surface.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to Claim ~~11~~ 10, ~~characterized by the fact~~
~~that~~ wherein the solid material is ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of silica, glass,
metals, carbon fibers and plastics.
12. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 10 and 11~~ Claim 10,
~~characterized by the fact that~~ wherein the abrasive outer surface comprises ~~asperities able to~~
~~retain~~ hardness capable of retaining cells of biological material.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 9 to 12~~ Claim 9, ~~characterized by~~
~~the fact that~~ wherein the sampling device ~~(2, 13)~~ comprises a support ~~(3, 5, 6; 14, 17)~~ able to
support the abrasive sampling means ~~(2; 15, 16)~~.
14. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 9 to 13~~ Claim 9, ~~characterized by~~
~~the fact that it comprises~~ further comprising means ~~(11)~~ for the transport of the abrasive
sampling means ~~(2; 15, 16)~~.
15. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 9 to 14~~ Claim 9, ~~characterized by~~
~~the fact that it comprises~~ further comprising means of identification of the abrasive sampling
means.

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16. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of claims 9 to 15~~ Claim 9, ~~characterized by the fact that it comprises~~ further comprising extraction buffer for assaying nucleic acids by hybridization.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Kit~~ The kit according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 9, ~~characterized by the fact that it comprises~~ further comprising specific reagents of PCR reactions.